

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-10 have been amended. Claims 11-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, the subject matter of claims 7-10 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent format. In light of the foregoing amendments to claim 1, and as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicants submit that claims 1-10 should be allowed. In addition, as discussed in greater detail hereinafter, Applicants submit that the remaining claims should also be allowed and the present application should be passed to Issue.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the receipt of the corresponding certified copy of the priority document.

**Drawings**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of approval of the drawings filed on January 14, 2002. Accordingly, no further action is necessary with respect to the drawings.

**Specification**

In accordance with MPEP §608.01(q), Applicants herewith submit a substitute specification in the above-identified application. Also included is a marked-up copy of the original specification that shows the portions of the original specification that are being added and deleted as an attachment to this Amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions.

Since the number of amendments that are being made to the original specification would render it difficult to consider the case, or to arrange the papers for printing or copying, Applicants have voluntarily submitted this

substitute specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the substitute specification be entered into the application.

A separate marked-up copy of the Abstract of the Disclosure and a clean and a marked-up copy of the specification are provided as an attachment to this Amendment.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Minayoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0015082). Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Obata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,458). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner. For example, Applicants submit that if the original term dehumidification means had been properly interpreted under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph, claim 1 should have been allowed without further amendment to the claims.

Specifically, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the unique combination of elements of the claimed invention. For example, as indicated by the Examiner, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the limitation(s) of “a dehumidification device for dehumidifying air circulated into the air circulating duct using a refrigerating cycle, wherein said dehumidification device includes a compressor, a condenser, a capillary tube and an evaporator which form a refrigerating cycle circuit.” Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

However, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include a dehumidification device having the allowable features discussed by the Examiner with respect to original claim 7. In light of the foregoing non-narrowing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Further, Applicants submit that the aforementioned changes do not appear to either raise a substantial question of the patentability of the claimed invention nor do they narrow the scope of the claimed invention.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minayoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0015082). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. As discussed in greater detail hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention of claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

Docket No. 0630-1398P  
Appl. No.: 10/043,205  
Art Unit: 1746

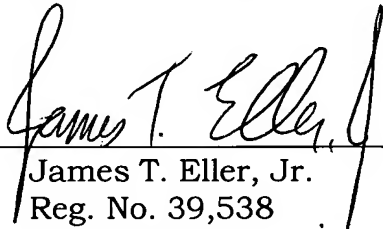
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



James T. Eller, Jr.

Reg. No. 39,538

P. O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

  
JTE/MTS/mlr

Attachment(s):     Substitute Specification  
                         Abstract of the Disclosure